

SECRET

AFRICA/LATIN AMERICA

D/OALA- 82-10

A

11 January 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: DDCI

Attached is a copy of the memorandum sent to D/INR this morning. In response to your questions concerning these deliveries:

1. The 1962 agreement referred to the introduction of strategic offensive weapons, but the text of the agreement and associated documents have never been made available to our analysts. The MIG-23s almost certainly would not be included in the definition as we understand it.
2. Because there is no apparent violation and previous deliveries have occurred, US options are somewhat limited. In the past, the US has protested to Moscow when such deliveries have occurred.
3. Regarding the delivery of fighter aircraft to Nicaragua, see page 2 of the attached memorandum.

25X1

25X1

Director

Office of African and Latin American Analysis

NGA review(s) completed.

25X1

DIA review completed.

SECRET

SECRET

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

11 January 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Hugh Montgomery,
Director Bureau of Intelligence and Research
Department of State

FROM : Robert Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT : MIG-23s Delivered to Cuba

25X1

25X1

4. If the Cubans have indeed received four more Flogger F's, then these aircraft, together with the four trainers, will probably form the nucleus of a second Cuban MIG-23 squadron.

25X1

SUBJECT: MIG-23s Delivered to Cuba

5. The Soviet Flogger fighter-bomber is assessed to have a combat radius of over [redacted] miles. A more realistic figure which takes required fuel reserves and operational constraints into account would be about [redacted] miles.

25X1

6. All modern combat aircraft have an inherent capability to deliver nuclear weapons. This applies to MIG-21s as well as MIG-23s.

7. Meanwhile, construction of several airfields in Nicaragua that are potential MIG fighter bases continues.

25X1

As a result, this airfield appears to be the most likely candidate for initial deliveries of fighter aircraft.

9. [redacted] Castro [redacted] plans to send aircraft to Nicaragua this January. [redacted] they may be MIG fighters, AN-26 transports, or some other model.

25X1

25X1

25X1

Page Denied

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Denied

25X1

SECRET

B

4. CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY AIR FORCE (CRAF)a. Mission

25X1 [] The CRAF is one of the largest and best equipped air forces in Latin America. Its mission is air defense of Cuba, tactical air and airlift support of ground and naval forces, and military aid and/or combat assistance to selected foreign countries and groups. Specific tasks include identification, interception, and, if necessary, destruction of intruding aircraft; search and rescue operations; meteorological services; photo and visual reconnaissance; transport of VIPs, military personnel, and cargo; and close air support of ground and naval forces, particularly in operations related to exile incursions. CRAF personnel have flown combat missions in Angola and Ethiopia, serve as military advisers abroad, and assist in training foreign military personnel in Cuba. A former task of flying crop dusters is now a civil aviation responsibility.

25X1 []

SECRET

SECRET

c. Support

25X1

[redacted] The "workhorse" of the CRAF inventory is the Il-14, which is capable of carrying troops and cargo throughout the island. The CRATES are also used for reconnaissance and search and rescue missions, and have responded to attacks on Cuban fishing craft by Cuban exile groups. One Il-14 is especially configured for photoreconnaissance and mapping and is often used in this role. During 1978-79 Cuba received 20 An-26/CURL short-range transports from the Soviet Union. While some of these aircraft were scheduled to be introduced into the Cubana inventory, the majority appear to have been assigned to CRAF. The CURLs not only improve the logistic capability of the Air Force but also significantly increase CRAF's ability to support airborne operations. They have an operating radius capable of reaching part of Florida, the Yucatán Peninsula, and the Caribbean islands west of Puerto Rico. The CRAF transport inventory also includes the An-2/COLT, Li-2/CAB, An-24/ COKE, Yak-40/CODLING, Mi-4 and Mi-8 helicopters, and various small fixed-wing aircraft.

25X1

[redacted] Cubana aircraft have been used to supplement CRAF in the transport of supplies and personnel. The airline's Il-18 and BAC 318 aircraft have been used to airlift Cuban troops to Africa; however, because of the vintage of these aircraft, especially the former, they are frequently out of service for repairs and maintenance. The Cubans are replacing the older aircraft with Il-62Ms. At present, the Cubana inventory includes seven, two of which are leased from Aeroflot. Cubana expects to increase its total to 10 Il-62Ms, none of which will be leased.

25X1

Page Denied